

Our Services Include:

Patient Services

- A toll-free telephone line with caring staff for information and referral
- Free information specific to MG type and related concerns
- Multiple support groups, serving Illinois, Northwest Indiana and the Quad Cities
- Up-to-date information about organization happenings, research and quality of life issues in our quarterly newsletter, *Conquer*
- A Web site: www.myastheniagravis.org
- Two educational meetings per year for patients and families, featuring speakers with expertise in various aspects of MG
- DVDs of the educational meeting speeches
- Coordination of Medical Advisory Board physician consults with patients' physicians

Public Awareness

- YouTube.com channel with abbreviated informational videos
- PSA's describing the symptoms of MG and contact information for the MGF of Illinois
- Public access TV broadcasts
- Calendar listings of upcoming support group and educational meetings
- Periodic articles in local papers

Medical Support

- Organization guidance from our Medical Advisory Board specializing in MG and its many aspects
- Funding of medical research
- Patient information for physicians' offices
- Physician information packets relating to MG for professional use

Our Mission:

To facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis and to improve their lives through programs of patient services, public awareness, medical research, professional education, advocacy and patient care.

Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois, Inc.

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The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation
of Illinois, Inc. is a member of:



Myasthenia Gravis Foundation
of Illinois, Inc.

Serving MG patients, their families and friends in Illinois, Northwest Indiana and Southeast Iowa . . . who have been diagnosed with or who are educating themselves about . . . myasthenia gravis - "the Snowflake Disease."

It is called this because each person diagnosed with MG is unique, and because the symptoms, progression, and treatment of the disease are different in everyone.

The MGF of Illinois is committed to being the best resource possible for patients and their families, recognizing and respecting the individual patient's situation and needs.



The Puzzle of Myasthenia Gravis... "No one I know has ever heard of Myasthenia Gravis"

Myasthenia gravis is a highly misdiagnosed and undiagnosed autoimmune disease in which communication between nerve and muscle is impaired, causing muscle weakness. It is a rare disease, which is one of the reasons it can take several years and multiple visits with different doctors before a patient receives an accurate diagnosis and can begin effective treatment.

The name myasthenia gravis means "grave muscle weakness." Symptoms can include:

- Droopy eyelid(s) and/or double or blurred vision
- Difficulty chewing, smiling, swallowing, talking
- Difficult breathing or shallow respiration
- Weak arms, hands, neck, face or legs
- Disturbed sense of balance
- Extreme fatigue

"Who Gets This Disease?"

MG can strike anyone of any race at any age. It is estimated that per 100,000 people, there are 20 with MG. The cause of MG is unknown, and there is not a cure – yet. The treatments available for MG can help control the symptoms, allowing many patients to lead healthy, normal lives.

"How Can I Find Out More About MG?"

We have a variety of materials which provide a thorough description of the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of myasthenia gravis. We are happy to provide these to you—most at no charge.